

Wisconsin Fur Buyers Report 2004-05

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Abstract

The average price paid for furbearer pelts fell for 11 of the 13 species on the 2004-05 fur buyer survey. The total pelt value for 2004-05 was estimated at 3.1 million dollars, an increase of \$950,000 over the 2003-04 value. Over 430,000 furs were purchased from Wisconsin fur harvesters this season. Sixty-two percent of all furs purchased were from out of state.

Methods

In order to document harvest totals, interstate fur sales, and total pelt value of the 2004-05 furbearer harvest season, survey forms were mailed to all licensed Wisconsin fur buyers. Fur buyers were asked to report the number of furs purchased from Wisconsin hunters, trappers, other fur dealers, and the number purchased from outside the state. Fur buyers were also questioned on the average prices paid to Wisconsin fur harvesters for furbearer pelts. Lastly, fur buyers were asked to estimate the percentage of furs purchased from Wisconsin fur hunters. A second and third mailing were sent to all non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR UNIX computer and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

Responses were received from 57 of the 66 (96%) licensed fur buyers that were surveyed. Since some of the returned surveys covered more than one buyer the corrected response rate was 97% (64 of 66). Sixty percent of the respondents purchased furs during the 2004-05 season.

Of the 1,273,051 furs purchased by licensed Wisconsin fur buyers during the 2004-05 season, 34% were purchased from Wisconsin fur harvesters, 4% were purchased from Wisconsin dealers, and 62% were purchased from outside Wisconsin (Table 1).

The 430,742 furs purchased from licensed Wisconsin hunters and trappers yielded a total pelt value of \$3,173,931. This was higher than the 2003-04 season total of \$2,224,078. This is the second year in a row in which the number of furs purchased from hunter/trappers and the total pelt value has increased.

The mean price paid to Wisconsin hunters/trappers in 2004-05 decreased for 11 of the 13 species surveyed. The lowest price paid for a furbearer pelt in the 2004-05 season was \$0.80 (Opossum). The highest price paid for a furbearer pelt in the 2003-04 season was \$95.57 (otter). The mean percentage of coyote, gray fox, raccoon, and red fox pelts purchase that were taken via hunting during the 2004-05 season is 70%, 47%, 66%, and 49% respectively.

Table 1. *Fur harvest data as reported by licensed Wisconsin fur buyers, 2004-05 trapping season.*

Species	# Purchased from Wisconsin Fur Harvesters	Average Price (\$)	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	# Purchased from Wisconsin Dealers	# Purchased from Outside Wisconsin	Total Pelt Value (\$)
Muskrat	190,317	\$2.56	\$1.00	\$3.00	27,013	301,521	\$487,211.52
Raccoon	173,135	\$9.73	\$6.50	\$28.00	21,467	334,472	\$1,684,603.55
Mink	11,777	\$11.98	\$3.00	\$13.64	2,834	22,636	\$141,088.46
Red Fox	3,067	\$17.55	\$8.00	\$25.00	355	11,861	\$53,825.85
Beaver	35,720	\$14.86	\$3.09	\$30.00	1,784	56,081	\$530,799.20
Gray Fox	959	\$12.68	\$7.95	\$20.00	126	3,997	\$12,160.12
Otter	1,631	\$78.03	\$10.00	\$95.57	200	1,586	\$127,266.93
Coyote	5,824	\$14.07	\$4.69	\$25.00	540	37,067	\$81,943.68
Bobcat	52	\$73.11	\$23.13	\$88.00	2	2,065	\$3,801.72
Fisher	1,349	\$26.91	\$17.98	\$30.20	56	571	\$36,301.59
Opossum	4,632	\$1.62	\$0.80	\$25.00	169	13,192	\$7,503.84
Skunk	1,025	\$4.76	\$2.00	\$14.00	21	1,796	\$4,879.00
Weasel	1,254	\$2.03	\$1.00	\$3.00	111	786	\$2,545.62
Total	430,742				54,678	787,631	\$3,173,931.08

**Report of Furs Purchased
2004-2005**

Form 2300-173 (R 5/05)

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Species	Furs Purchased From WISCONSIN HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS	Average Price Per Pelt \$ \$. ¢ ¢	Furs Purchased From WISCONSIN FUR DEALERS	Furs Purchased From OUTSIDE OF WISCONSIN	Percent of Furs Purchased From Wisconsin Fur Hunters (<i>Best Estimate</i>)
Muskrat	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Raccoon	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	% of raccoons hunted <input type="text"/>
Mink	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Red Fox	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	% of red fox hunted <input type="text"/>
Beaver	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Gray Fox	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	% of gray fox hunted <input type="text"/>
Otter	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Coyote	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	% of coyote hunted <input type="text"/>
Bobcat	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Fisher	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Opossum	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Skunk	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Weasel	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

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Figure 1. *The 2004-05 furbuyer questionnaire.*